

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 have been amended. Claims 2 and 4-5 have been cancelled. Claims 6-9 have been added. Claims 1, 3, and 6-9 remain pending. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application, as amended, are requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 4, and 5 under 35 USC §102(b). The Examiner indicated that claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2. Claim 3 depends from claim 1. Claims 4 and 5 have been canceled. It is submitted that the rejection is moot.

Independent claim 6 is new. It finds basis in claim 1. Some of the limitations have been broadened, but claim 6 continues to include the limitations of allowable claim 2. Hence, it is submitted that claim 6 is allowable.

Claims 7-9 depend on claims 1 and 6 and should also be allowable.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination are requested. Allowance of claims 1, 3, and 6-9 at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Dated: January 28,
February, 2005

By Curtis B. Hamre
Curtis B. Hamre
Reg. No. 29,165
CHamre:lad